

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3442

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

CONFIDENTIAL LIMA 0160

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, PE

SUBJECT: PERU ATTACKS TRA AND EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR

ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA

REF: STATE 1804

1. IN PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED JANUARY 6 AND CARRIED IN
LIMA PRESS JANUARY 7, FOREIGN MINISTRY SHARPLY CRITICIZED
TRA AS "COERCIVE", DISCRIMINATORY", AND AS "SERIOUSLY
THREATENING THE INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT OF LATIN AMERICAN
COUNTRIES AND THE THIRD WORLD". STATEMENT THEN QUOTES
TEXTS OF MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT VELASCO TO PRESIDENTS OF
ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA IN WHICH HE EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR
POSITIONS THEY HAVE TAKEN. PRESS CARRIED STATEMENT UNDER
LARGE HEADLINES, LA PRENSA NOTING THAT, "PERU MAY NOT
GO TO BUENOS AIRES".

2. STATEMENT COMES AS NO REAL SURPRISE AS IT HAS BEEN
PRECEDED BY CRITICAL PRESS COVERAGE AND SOME SHARP
EDITORIALS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS. ON JANUARY 5,
FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL GARCIA BEDOYA WAS QUOTED
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AT AIRPORT INTERVIEW AS SAYING, "THERE IS A CONSENSUS IN

LATIN AMERICA TO REJECT THE TRA", ADDING THAT ANY OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. WHEN EMBASSY OFFICER BRIEFED CHIEF OF COMMERCIAL POLICY DIVISION OF MINISTRY ON TRA, LATTER WAS OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED AND TOOK DETAILED NOTES, BUT VOLUNTEERED THAT GSP WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE OF MUCH BENEFIT TO PERU IN PRACTICAL TERMS AND THAT ITS IMPORTANCE WOULD BE MORE SYMBOLIC THAN ECONOMIC.

3. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT GOP HAS DECIDED TO USE TRA AS A WHIPPING BOY TO underscore ITS COLIDARITY WITH THIRD WORLD. IT ALSO SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT PERU PERCEIVES GREATER BENEFIT FROM ALIGNING ITSELF WITH VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR, WHICH ARE POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS OF PETROLEUM (LIMA 0095 AND 0097), THAN FROM WHAT IT MAY REGARD AS MARGINAL BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM GSP. GOP STATEMENT AVOIDED ANY INDICATION OF WHETHER IT WOULD JOIN ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA IN BOYCOTTING BUENOS AIRES MFM MEETING, AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMALLY ADVISED US THAT ANY DECISION IN THIS REGARD WILL BE MADE AT A "HIGHER LEVEL" AT A LATER DATE. HOWEVER, WE NOTE PRESS REPORTS TO EFFECT THAT VENEZUELA WILL CALL FOR A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE OAS, AND PERU MAY FIND THIS INITIATIVE ATTRACTIVE, ESPECIALLY BECUASE PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS, LUIS ALVARADO, HEAD THE COUNCIL FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1975.

BARNEBEY

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